

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00404 081137Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 INR-07 L-03 SSO-00

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P 080907Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 974

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0404

STADIS//////////

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CPAS, RP (FERIA, DOLORES STEPHENS)

SUBJ: ARREST: DOLORES STEPHENS FERIA

REF: A) STATE 002842; B) MANILA 337

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT MRS FERIA AND CONOFF WENT TO CAMP CRAME, WHERE SHE DETAINED (CONTRARY TO INFO REF B), AFTERNOON OF JAN 8. HE FIRST SPOKE WITH LEGAL OFFICER OF 5TH CONSTABULARY SECURITY UNIT WHO IDENTIFIED SUBJECT AS PHILIPPINE CITIZEN. HE SAID SHE HAD BEEN DETAINED ON APRIL 25, 1974 ON A SEARCH AND SUSPICION ORDER, CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN THAT SHE HAD BEEN AMCIT, CONSULATE WAS NOT INFORMED BECAUSE SUBJECT HAD BECOME PHILIPPINE CITIZEN. HE SHOWED CONOFF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS INDICATING SUBJECT HAD TAKEN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES ON 12 MAY 1972, RENOUNCING U.S. CITIZENSHIP, AND HAD PETITIONED, ON 15 MAY 1972 FOR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP AS WIFE OF PHILIPPINE CITIZEN. HE ADVISED CONOFF THAT COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS COULD BE SECURED MAKING OFFICIAL WRITTEN REQUEST. EMBASSY WILL DO SO.

2. INASMUCH AS CONSULATE ALSO HAD RECORD OF MR. FERIA'S REGISTRATION AS AMCIT WITH NO RECORD OF RENUNCIATION OR NATURALIZATION AS PHILIPPINE CITIZEN (THUS POSSIBLY RENDERING HIS WIFE'S PETITION INVALID) CONOFF ASKED TO TALK TO MRS. FERIA. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO CO OF COMMAND FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
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OF DETAINEES, PERMISSION TO VISIT WAS GRANTED. A FEW MINUTES

LATER, MRS. FERIA WAS BROUGHT TO OFFICE OF CSU LEGAL OFFICER WHERE SHE SPOKE WITH FORMER AND CONOFF. SHE VERIFIED THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED DOCUMENTS WERE ACCURATE AND THAT SHE CONSIDERED HERSELF A PHILIPPINE CITIZEN. SHE SAID SHE WAS "QUITE SERIOUS ABOUT IT", THAT SHE HAD LIVED MOST OF HER LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THOUGHT OF HERSELF AS A FILIPINO. SHE SAID SHE "WOULD APPEAL IF STRIPPED OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP" AND ASKED CONOFF TO "REFUSE IF EVER I AM DEPORTED AND YOU ARE ASKED TO ACCEPT ME."

3. SHE SAID HER HUSBAND HAD ALSO RENOUNCED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AND RENATURALIZED SELF AS PHILIPPINE CITIZEN, EARLIER THAN SHE. SHE GAVE HIS ADDRESS FOR VERIFICATION. SHE SAID OLDER DAUGHTER WAS IN U.S. AND LATTER'S HUSBAND WOULD SOON BECOME AMCIT; THAT SECOND DAUGHTER HAD MARRIED FILIPINO AND WOULD SOON BECOME PHILIPPINE CITIZEN; AND THAT YOUNGER DAUGHTER WOULD SOON MARY AND MIGHT ALSO BECOME PHILIPPINE CITIZEN.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS CONCLUSIVELY PROVES MRS. FERIA NOT AMCIT AND WILL PROCESS LOSS OF NATIONALITY PAPERS FOR HER AND HUSBAND. WE CONSIDER CASE CLOSED AS A PROTECTION MATTER. FYI: CONOFF SAW NO INDICATION OF MISTREATMENT. MRS. FERIA HAD EVERY CHANCE TO SPEAK FREELY, WAS ALONE WITH CONOFF FOR APPROXIMATELY A MINUTE AND DID NOT MAKE ANY APPEAL FOR HELP OF ANY KIND. SHE MENTIONED THAT FRIENDS HAD SUGGESTED, SOON AFTER DETENTION THAT SHE APPEAL TO EMBASSY, BUT THAT SHE FELT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN "DISHONEST."
SULLIVAN

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